

Andru Volinsky,
Executive Councilor for District Two
Meeting Report
Executive Council Meeting of May 3, 2017

Please feel free to contact me at Andru.Volinsky@nh.gov.

I. Council Agenda Items of Note

I hosted the Council breakfast preceding the May 3rd meeting at Child and Family Services (CFS) in Concord. I wanted to share the good work done by our non-profits with my fellow Councilors and Executive Director Borja Alvarez deToledo and his staff did not disappoint. CFS provides a wide range of services to New Hampshire's children, families, and to the elderly. Unfortunately, state funding has not kept pace with the needs of our most vulnerable and, at times, our funding decisions are incredibly shortsighted.

As but one example, the CFS home care program provides help to seniors who are able and who choose to remain in their homes, but the state pays only \$17/day for this service. The low payment schedule means that CFS can only pay home care workers \$11/hour and this limits the number of workers it can recruit. The program currently serves over 700 seniors, but with better funding could serve 1000. The difference in state rates for home care versus nursing home care is \$151 per senior per day. Do the math. If one senior goes to a nursing home one year earlier because of a lack of home care, it costs the state over \$55,000 in additional costs.

II. Other Agenda Items Worth Noting

A. Dartmouth Hitchcock Contract

The Governor called a potential breach of contract issue to the Council's attention at the close of the CFS presentation. Dartmouth Hitchcock is contracted to provide psychiatric care at the State Hospital and appears to be out of compliance with the number of psychiatrists to be provided to serve the patients at the hospital. The state has provided formal notice of its concerns to Dartmouth Hitchcock and a response will be due around May 10th.

B. BFA Loan Guarantee

The Council approved a Business Finance Authority (BFA) loan guarantee for Granite State Gymnastics that will allow the company to consolidate operations in one facility in Hooksett. The loan guarantee was approved 4-1 with Councilor Wheeler dissenting.

C. Lyme Research

The Council approved \$62,981 to be paid to UNH-Durham to develop a predictive model of environmental factors associated with Lyme disease.

D. Senior Energy Assistance

Senior Energy Assistance Service grants were awarded to: Southwestern Community Services in Keene (\$10,816), Community Action Partnership of Strafford County (\$5,832), Tri-County Community Action Program in Berlin (\$21,630), and Southern NH Services in Manchester (\$29,029).

F. Corrections Budget Woes—Medical Care

The Department of Corrections had two items on the Council Agenda involving requests to transfer substantial sums among programs to accommodate unanticipated needs. The Department was granted permission to shift over \$1 million in its budget to cover the costs of medical care for inmates with long term illnesses that are expensive to treat. I asked the Department to explain its use of programs such as medical parole to determine if inmates with advanced cancers, the need for dialysis, or who suffer from MS could be paroled to less secure facilities for humanitarian reasons while at the same time making those prisoners eligible for federally funded Medicaid. The Department will provide detailed data in the near future.

G. Corrections Budget Woes-Overtime

Similarly, the Department asked permission to shift over \$6 million to its overtime budgets because it cannot recruit security personnel and must cover shifts with overtime. This is an ongoing problem within our prison system. The state cannot recruit and retain correctional officers sufficient to meet the corrections model currently in use, yet there is little discussion of changing the model. Worse yet, some of the funds being used to cover overtime shortfalls are coming from community corrections programs and mental health programs, both of which are necessary to provide alternatives to prison or to make prison stays somewhat productive.

H. Tuition for State Employees

The Council approved educational tuition agreements for two state employees. Councilor Wheeler dissented from both votes.

I. Fairpoint Contracts

Finally, the Council approved four multi-year contracts with a Fairpoint affiliate after receiving assurances that the contemplated acquisition of Fairpoint by another concern will not present a problem in the future.

III. Nominations and Confirmations

Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services

Charles Arlinghaus, Canterbury

Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services

Joseph B. Bouchard, Concord

Athletic Trainers Governing Board

Kristy Ridings, Wolfeboro

Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee

Gale Hanson, Colebrook

Senior Division Director, Division of Child & Family Services

Christine Tappan, Northwood

Director Division of Emergency Services, Communications and Management

Mark e. Doyle, Merrimack

Board of Veterinary Medicine

Judith D. Leclerc, Nashua

Judicial Council

Brian J.X. Murphy, Rye

Advisory Committee on Marine Fisheries

Erik S. Anderson, Portsmouth

Christian Callahan, Portsmouth

Ellen D. Goethel, Hampton

Geno Joseph Marconi, Stratham

Oil Fund Disbursement Board

Shane McKinney, Albany

Rivers Management Advisory Committee

Edna Feighner, Concord

State Committee on Aging

Kristi St. Laurent, Windham

Mount Washington Commission

George M. Cleveland, North Conway

The following confirmations also occurred: Artist Laureate---Gary Sampson, Concord, New Hampshire State Council on the Arts---Sarah Stewart, Manchester, State Board of Education---Andrew "Drew" Cline, Bedford (District 4), Board of Registration of Funeral Directors and Embalmers---Vincent A. Baiocchetti, Gilmanton, Juvenile Parole Board---Barry Nilson, Amherst, Board of Licensing for Alcohol and Other Drug Use Professionals---Jacqueline H. Abikoff, Gilford and Tim Turmell, Stratham (Public Member), Mechanical Licensing Board---Steven Guercia, Concord, Volunteer New Hampshire Board of Directors---William W. Boyd, Merrimack and Timothy J. Acerno, Epping

IV. Spotlight

A. \$15 an Hour

At my request, the state's agencies report the lowest rates of compensation paid by state vendors to their employees. They also report whether or not they provide benefits (e.g., health insurance). The following contracts were approved with the pay scales noted:

DOT paving contract with Continental Paving in Londonderry at \$18/hr with benefits,

DOT paving contract with Pike Industries of Belmont at \$12/hr with benefits after 1 yr,

DOT paving contract with GMI Asphalt of Belmont at \$14/hr with benefits,

DOT paving contract with Mitchell Sand and Gravel at \$18/hr with benefits,

D of Safety for NHSP cruiser work with MHQ at \$14/hr with benefits,

DAS construction of hwy maint. facility and separate restroom facility with DL King and Associates at \$16/hr with benefits,

DAS construction of Nat'l Guard range with Charters Bros. Construction at \$18/hr,

DAS electrical contracting at State House with Gerard A. Laflamme, Inc. at \$13/hr,

DAS for repointing of State House parapet with Hascall and Hall, Inc. at \$13.50/hr,

DRED for septic system maint with Lamprey Suburban Septic at \$12/hr with benefits,

DRED for septic system maint with Henniker Septic Service at \$15/hr with benefits,

DRED for septic system maint with Hartigan Enviro at \$13/hr with benefits,

DRED for septic system maint with Felix Septic at \$12/hr with benefits,

DRED for septic system maint with Bolens Septic and Portable Toilets, LLC of Stewartstown and Rowell's Sewer & Drain, LLC of Tilton REFUSED TO DISCLOSE WHAT THEY PAY THEIR EMPLOYEES. Please take note!

V. Next Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled Executive Council meeting will occur at the State House on May 17th, 2017, beginning at 10. a.m. The agenda for the meeting will be posted by the Secretary of State on the Executive Council web page late on the preceding Friday afternoon. <http://sos.nh.gov/GC2.aspx>

Councilor Prescott is responsible for organizing the Executive Council's informal breakfast which may be attended by the public. The location is to be determined.

Region 1-Monadnock

[#31A](#) Authorized the Bureau of Construction to enter into a contract with Mitchell Sand & Gravel LLC, Shelburne, MA, for resurfacing of approximately 70 miles in District IV in Cheshire and Hillsborough Counties, on the basis of a low bid of \$4,558,809. Effective upon G&C approval through November 3, 2017. **8% Highway, 92% Other (41% Betterment, 51% Agency Income) Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#34](#) Authorized to enter into a **sole source** contract with Southwestern Community Services Inc., Keene, NH, for the Senior Energy Assistance Services Program, in the amount of \$10,816. Effective May 3, 2017 through August 31, 2018. **100% Other Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#49](#) Authorized to award grant funds in the amount of \$150,000 to Bantam Realty Trust LLC, to install and operate a wood chip biomass fired heating system at its property in Keene, NH. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2018. **100% Renewable Energy Funds, a non-lapsing special fund continually appropriated to the Commission pursuant to RSA 362-F:10. Unanimous Vote**

[#50](#) Authorized to award grant funds in the amount of \$280,000 to the Jaffrey Rindge Cooperative School District, to install and operate a wood chip biomass fired heating system at the Jaffrey Rindge High School. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2018. **100% Renewable Energy Funds, a non-lapsing special fund continually appropriated to the Commission pursuant to RSA 362-F:10. Unanimous Vote**

[#53](#) Authorized to award grant funds in the amount of \$169,425 to Sugar River Power LLC, to reactivate and upgrade its Lower Village Hydroelectric project in Claremont, NH. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2018. **100% Renewable Energy Funds, a non-lapsing special fund continually appropriated to the Commission pursuant to RSA 362-F:10. Vote: 4-0-1 (Wheeler abstained)**

[#88](#) Authorized to amend a **sole source** contract with Monadnock Development Services of Keene, NH (originally approved by G&C on 3-9-16, item #100), to continue to provide training and technical assistance to local education agencies in their region under the State Personnel Development Grant and provide sustainability activities related to the Next Steps NH initiative, by increasing the price by \$81,376.24 from \$108,563 to \$189,939.24, and by extending the completion date from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2018. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

Region 2- Merrimack

[#A](#) Authorized the Bureau of Highway Design to amend a contract with McFarland-Johnson Inc., Concord, NH and Binghamton, NY (originally approved by G&C on 11-20-13, item #123), to prepare the second phase of the preliminary engineering design for the section of Interstate 93 passing through Bow and Concord from I-89 through I-393, by extending the completion date from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2018. No Additional Funding. **Unanimous Vote**

[#6](#) Authorized to hold a Public Hearing to approve an award of a State Guarantee under RSA 162-A:13 with respect to a loan from Salem Cooperative Bank to Granite State Gymnastics & Fitness, LLC or Entity to be Named located in Hooksett, New Hampshire. Action will Authorized a Resolution under RSA 162-A:18 to determine the financing will serve a public use, provide public benefit and is within the policy and authority of the Act. **Vote: 4-1** (Wheeler)

[#36](#) Authorized to enter into a **sole source** contract with Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties Inc., Concord, NH, for the Senior Energy Assistance Program, in the amount of \$15,682. Effective May 3, 2017 through August 31, 2018. **100% Other Funds (NH DHHS). Unanimous Vote**

[#48](#) Authorized to award grant funds in the amount of \$200,000 to Merrimack County, to install and operate a wood chip biomass fired heating system at the Merrimack County Jail facility in Boscawen, NH. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2018. **100% Renewable Energy Funds, a non-lapsing special fund continually appropriated to the Commission pursuant to RSA 362-F:10. Unanimous Vote**

[#51](#) Authorized to award grant funds in the amount of \$173,000 to Contoocook Hydro LLC, to reactivate and upgrade the Bell Mill Hydroelectric site in Peterborough, NH. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2018. **100% Renewable Energy Funds, a non-lapsing special fund continually appropriated to the Commission pursuant to RSA 362-F:10. Unanimous Vote**

[#71](#) Authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the New Hampshire Lakes Association Inc., Concord, NH, totaling \$261,000 for the purpose of aquatic invasive species prevention activities. (2) Further Authorized to award an advance payment in the amount of \$90,000 to NH LAKES. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2017. **100% Lakes Restoration Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#80](#) Authorized to award a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund cleanup grant to the City of Franklin, in the amount of \$59,000 for the cleanup of environmental contamination at the Macosko Foundry site. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2017. **100% Brownfields Repayment Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#90](#) Authorized to enter into a contract with the NH Association for the Blind, Concord, NH, to provide services under the NH Vision Education Technical and Professional Development Initiative, in an amount not to exceed \$298,500. Effective July 1, 2017, or upon G&C approval, whichever is later, through June 30, 2020. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#91](#) Authorized to amend a **sole source** contract with Granite State Independent Living, Concord, NH (originally approved by G&C on 3-9-16, item #99), to continue to provide training and technical assistance to one local education agency in their region under the State Personnel Development Grant and provide sustainability activities related to Next Steps NH, by increasing the price by \$43,800 from \$73,000 to \$116,800, and by extending the completion date from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2018. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

Region 3-Strafford

[#11](#) Authorized to enter into an agreement with the University of NH, Durham, NH for the provision of a predictive model for Lyme disease and evaluation of environmental risk factors associated with Lyme disease, for an amount not to exceed \$62,981. Effective upon G&C approval through July 31, 2017. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#27](#) Authorized the Bureau of Construction to enter into a contract with Continental Paving Inc., Londonderry, NH, for resurfacing of approximately 60 miles in District VI in Merrimack, Rockingham and Strafford Counties, on the basis of a low bid of \$4,497,245.50. Effective upon G&C approval through November 3, 2017. **8% Highway, 92% Other Funds (41% Betterment, 51% Agency Income Funds). Unanimous Vote**

[#31B](#) Authorized the Bureau of Construction to enter into a contract with SUR Construction Inc., Rochester, NH, for a two-way left turn lane on NH Route 11 in Farmington for the entire length of the project, on the basis of a low bid of \$1,426,765.15. (2) Further Authorized a contingency in the amount of \$99,873.57 for payment of latent conditions which may appear during the construction of the project. Effective upon G&C approval through October 27, 2017. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#35](#) Authorized to enter into a **sole source** contract with Community Action Partnership of Strafford County, Dover, NH, for the Senior Energy Assistance Services Program, in the amount of \$5,038.52. Effective May 3, 2017 through August 31, 2018. **100% Other Funds (NH DHHS). Unanimous Vote**

[#52](#) Authorized to award grant funds in the amount of \$300,000 to the University of NH, to install and operate a wood chip biomass boiler district heating system to serve buildings of the University of NH's Thompson School of Applied Science. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2018. **100% Renewable Energy Funds, a non-lapsing special fund continually appropriated to the Commission pursuant to RSA 362-F:10. Unanimous Vote**

[#79](#) Authorized to award a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund cleanup grant to the City of Somersworth, in the amount of \$178,000 for the cleanup of environmental contamination at the Breton Cleaners property. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2017. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#89](#) Authorized to amend a **sole source** contract with Strafford Learning Center, Somersworth, NH (originally approved by G&C on 3-9-16, item #102), to continue to provide training and technical assistance to local education agencies in their region under the State Personnel Development Grant and provide sustainability activities related to the Next Steps NH initiative, by increasing the price by \$108,611.39 from \$89,656 to \$198,267.59, and by extending the completion date from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2018. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

